

April 2013



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Butte County FSA Updates

Butte County FSA Office DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

150 Chuck Yeager Way
Suite D
Oroville, CA 95965

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

County Executive Director:
Billy Merritt Jr.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Program Technicians:
Shan Bertapelle
Teresa Blackson
Brenda Richter

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll

Farm Loan Manager
Shaleen K. Hogan
530-527-3013
shaleen.hogan@ca.usda.gov

Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact the local FSA office to schedule an appointment with a Farm Loan Officer or Farm Loan Manager.

Read the linked articles below showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

- 1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#) and
- 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservelet>.

Unauthorized Disposition of Commodities Under Loan

If loan commodities have been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. Penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and can include ineligibility for a two-year period.

Signature Authority for Spouses

Spouses:

--may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, effective August 1, 1992, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the County Office.

-- shall not sign FSA-211 (Power of Attorney) on behalf of the other.

-- shall not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

Exception:

Spouses may sign on behalf of each other for a husband/wife joint venture with a permanent tax ID number and sole proprietorship, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the County Office.

Dates to Remember

May 31 Last day to request a 2012 Rice Loan.

June 3 Last Day to signup for ACRE

June 7 Last day to submit SURE applications for 2011 losses

August 2 Last Day to signup for DCP

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
